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Place des Nations concert

James Taylor: Nostalgia and drifting lyrics

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
for The Gazette

Without being extroverted or weird, James Taylor has emerged over the past half dozen years as one of the strangest pop heroes of all time. He appeared at Place des Nations last night before about 5,000 appreciative fans, many of whom have waited since 1970 — the year of Taylor's anthem-like Fire and Rain — for a chance to be wafted by his spell of lilting pain.

Taylor is famous for his sad songs. They're not the kind of songs to depress you; but the feeling you get listening to them invariably is like falling into a pillow of melancholy.

How Taylor got that way makes his myth even stranger. This singer-songwriter-guitarist has no hard-luck tale to sell or rebellious streak upon which charismatic qualities arise.

WELL-TO-DO

He was born into a well-to-do family who went to Martha's Vineyard Island for the summers. When he was 18 he travelled to New York to start a band which broke up three years later — after Taylor had become a heroin addict.

Unlike other junkie musicians, such as jazzmen who have used drugs to "get off" to new improvisational prowess, Taylor has written in a somewhat sparing style, devoid of any great spark of invention other than meditative navel gazing. Selling millions of records has obviously had therapeutic value for Taylor, and he is reportedly no longer under the influence.

James Taylor, whose songs last night left a feeling of falling into a pillow of melancholy.

NOSTALGIA

He has also lost a lot of his initial popularity. Perhaps the youth music generation no longer looks as collectively to Taylor's songs for sweet relief, and the feeling I sensed last night was almost one of nostalgia. The audience seemed more aware of his past contribution — of having soothed the Woodstock generation down from their drug-induced intensities — than for any particular new developments.

Musically, after six albums, Taylor has not changed his style one iota. There's still the familiar blank monotone, with its sighing hint of emotion. There's still the methodical brocade of acoustic guitar picking. His lyrics, even the new ones from his latest album Gorilla, still drift aimlessly about his withdrawn psyche.

He was accompanied by the stylish session musicians who have backed him up on record. Lee Sklar, bass, and Russ Kunkel, drums, constitute the consummate "soft-rock" rhythm section. They do not flash pyrotechnichs, but instead deal in tasty nuance, and they create a solid enough foundation upon which Taylor can safely navigate.

COSY RIFFS

Guitarist Danny Kortchmar, who has been with the singer since that ill-fated early New York group, contributed some cosy riffs and keyboardist Clarence MacDonald oozed some of the more moving musical moments of the show. On the whole, though, the band did not go any further than faithfully supply the bittersweet sound that Taylor depends upon.

The opening set of the evening was provided by Emmy Lou Harris, a progressive country music singer whose recent album was produced by Anne Murray's producer, Brian Ahern. Backed by a tight, easy-rolling band, her voice soared with a mellow feeling, and she displayed considerably more natural sensitivity to her songs than the usual stereotyped "urban-country" singers of today. In other words, her steel guitar sound was not lazy.

Next at P des N: Dave Mason, the British guitarist prominent since the days of Traffic, and Poco, one of America's archtypical country-rock bands.

Meanwhile, the summer series producer, Kebec Spec, have announced a "super-show" of Quebec stars Beau Dommage, Raoul Duguay, and Ti-Jean Carignan.

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CBMT	6 Montreal	CFTM	10 Montreal
	(6) Global TV, Ottawa	CKWS	11 Kingston
CHLT	7 Sherbrooke	CFCF	12 Montreal
WMTW	(8) Poland Spring, Me.	CJOH	13 Ottawa
		CIVM	(17) Montreal
		WVNY	(22) Burlington, Vt.
		WETK	(33) Burlington, Vt.

11.55 a.m.
(3) CBS News
12.00 noon
2 9 Bunny et ses amis
(3) Young and the Restless
4 6 11 Summer of '75
(5) Magnificent Marble Machine
7 Informa 7
8/13 Cartoon Party
(8) Showoffs
10 Les Bouts D'chou
12 Magic Tom
12.30 p.m.
2 9 L'homme qui revient de loin
(3) Search for Tomorrow
4 News
(5) Jackpot
7 10 Cinéma—Programme double (1) Terre sans pardon (Charlton Heston, Anne Baxter. (2) A communiquer.
8/13 Secrets from the Kitchen
(8) (22) All My Children
12 Movie—Adventure Harry-O (David Janssen, Martin Sheen and Margot Kidder)
12.34 p.m.
4 Summer of '75
1.00 p.m.
8 13 The Lucy Show
11 The Art of Cooking
2 9 Croquons le verbe
(3) News and Weather
4 Any Woman Can Fix It
(5) Truth or Consequences
6 Land & Sea
(8) (22) Ryan's Hope
1.10 p.m.
(3) Across the Fence
1.30 p.m.
2 9 Téléjournal
(3) As the World Turns
4 Midnight
(5) Days of Our Lives
6 Bob Switzer Graphology
8 13 Dick Van Dyke
(8) (22) Let's Make a Deal
11 Tommy Banks Show
1.35 p.m.
2 9 Réseau - soleil
2.00 p.m.
(3) The Guiding Light
6 Coronation Street
8/13 What's the Good Word
(8) (22) The $10,000 Pyramid
2.30 p.m.
2 9 Cinéma—Documentaire Révolution russe en 1917 guerre ou revolution
(3) 4 6 11 The Edge of Night
(5) The Doctors
8/13 12 He Knows She Knows
(8) (22) Rhyme and Reason
3.00 p.m.
(3) New Price Is Right
4 6 11 Juliette and Friends
(5) 8/13 12 Another World
(8) (22) General Hospital
3.30 p.m.
(3) Match Game
4 6 11 Take 30
(8) (22) One Life to Live
(33) Designing Women
4.00 p.m.
2 9 Allo Grenouille
(3) Musical Chairs
4 6 11 Family Court
(5) Somerset
(6) Alphabet of Life
7 10 Patofville
8 13 It's Your Move
(8) Gilligan's Island
(9)NC (33) Sesame Street
12 Definition
(22) You Don't Say
4.30 p.m.
2 9 Picolo
(3) Raymond Burr Show
4 6 11 Forest Rangers
(5) The Merv Griffin Show
(6) Canadian Cavalcade
7 Cinéma Les exploits de Pearl White
(8) Superman
8/13 Movie—Drama The Gig Bluff (John Bromfield, Martha Vickers and Robert Hutton)
10 Cinéma—drame historique Le serpent du Nil (Rhonda Fleming, William Lundigan)
12 Pay Cards
(22) New Zoo Revue
5.00 p.m.
2 9 Daniel Boone
4 6 How It Happens Highways in the Sky
(6) Hogan's Heroes
(8) Beverly Hillbillies
(9)NC Dialogue Intime
10 13 Truth or Consequences
(22) Bullwinkle
(33) Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood
5.30 p.m.
(3) Beverly Hillbillies
4 6 11 The Partridge Family
(6) Doctor in the House
(8) Newscircle
(9) (9)NC Tele Sports Digest
12 It's Your Move
(22) Flintstones
(33) The Electric Company
6.00 p.m.
2 9 Toumai
(3) (5) (6) 6 8/13 9 12 (22) News; Sports; Weather
4 Telescope
7 10 Parle Parle, Jase Jase
(9)NC German Diary
11 I Saw That
(33) Hodgepodge Lodge
6.30 p.m.
2 9 Téléjournal
4 11 News
6 Quelque Show
(8) The F.B.I.
(9) (9)NC NFL's Greatest Games
(33) Scene I, Take I Filmmaking
7.00 p.m.
2 9 World of Disney
(3) CBS News
4 Valley Sites
(5) Mission Impossible
6 Reach for the Top National playoffs
(6) Sergeant Bilko
7 Les Protecteurs
8/13 12 Joey & Dad
(9) (9)NC (17) Le Roi Arthur
10 Le 10 vous informe
11 Lawrence Welk
(22) What's My Line
(33) Elliott Norton Reviews
7.30 p.m.
(3) Let's Make a Deal
4 6 Rainbow Country
(6) The Honeymooners
7 10 Hawaii Five-O
(8) Hogan's Heroes
(9) (9)NC (17) La Chasse-Galerie
(22) To Tell the Truth
(33) Evening Edition
7:45 p.m.
(9) (9)NC (17) Les touche-à-tout
8.00 p.m.
2 9 La p'tite semaine
(3) Good Times
4 6 (8) 11 (22) Happy Days
(6) Movie—Comedy Without Reservations (Claudette Colbert, John Wayne)
8/13 12 Excuse My French
(9) (9)NC (17) Allez Hop!
(33) The Way It Was Red Wings/Montreal Canadiens — Stanley Cup Playoffs, 1952
8.30 p.m.
2 9 L'Amour quotidien
(3) MASH
4 6 11 Police Story
7 10 Symphorien
(5) Movie—Drama The Last Survivors (Martin Sheen, Diane Baker, Christopher George and Anne Francis)
(8) Movie—Comedy Let's Switch (Barbara Eden and Barbara Feldon)
8/13 12 Marcus Welby, M.D.
(9) (9)NC (17) Ce coin de pays
(22) Finland, A Breath of Fresh Air
(33) Consumer Survival Kit Buying land
9.00 p.m.
(3) Hawaii Five-O
7 10 Les arpents verts
(9) (9)NC (17) d'Un Québécois à l'autre
(22) Major League Baseball Boston vs. Minnesota
(33) Nova A physicist and a biologist
9.30 p.m.
2 9 Parlez-nous de vous
4 6 11 Homemade Jam The last of three musical half-hours hosted by Bob Ruzicka. Tonight: Nancy Nash
7 10 Si Quebec m'Etait Conté
8/13 12 Headline Hunters
(9) (9)NC (17) Divers pour l'été
10.00 p.m.
(3) Barnaby Jones
4 6 11 Look Who's Here Normie Kwong
(5) Police Story
(6) Global News
7 10 Auto Patrouille
8/13 12 Harry-O
(8) Marcus Welby, M.D.
(9) NC German Diary
(33) Pioneers of Modern painting Paul Cezanne
10.30 p.m.
2 9 Téléjournal
4 6 11 World Aquarium
(6) Jokers Wild
7 10 Les Nouvelles TVA
(9)NC Les cloches du hameau
11.00 p.m.
2 9 Rencontres
(3) 4 (5) 6 (8) 8 13 11 12 News; Weather; Sports
(6) Movie—Comedy Dream Life (Liliane Lemaitre-Anges, Veronique Le Flaguais)
7 Informa 7
(9) (9)NC NFL's Greatest Games
10 La Couleur du temps
11:15 p.m.
7 10 Cinéma—Western Le plus sauvage d'entre nous (Paul Newman, Melvyn Douglas)
11:30 p.m.
2 9 Les Joueurs
(3) Movie—Drama The Reckoning (Nichol Williamson, Rachel Roberts and Paul Rogers)
(5) Tonight Show
(8) (22) World of Entertainment Murder in the First Person Singular (William Windom, John David Carson and Martha Scott)
8/13 Simply Charlotte Guest: Patrick Watson
(9) (9)NC Tele Sports Magazine
11:50 p.m.
4 Movie—Mystery The Mal Doctor of Market Street (Una Merkel, Lionel Atwill)
11:55 p.m.
6 Movie—Drama Hers to Hold (Deanna Durbin, Joseph Cotten and Charles Winninger)
12:00 p.m.
2 9 Cinéma—Comédie Docteur Folamour (Peter Sellers, George C. Scott)
8/13 Spyforce
(9)NC Keep on Dragin'
11 Movie—Drama The Lady Pays Off (Linda Darnell, Stephen McNally)
12 Movie—Drama The Truth (Brigitte Bardot, Charles Vanel and Paul Meurisse)
1:00 a.m.
(5) Tomorrow Show
(9)NC Les Sciences Occultes
1.30 a.m.
(9)NC Un Québécois à travers le monde
2.00 a.m.
(9)NC Les Violons d'Ingres
2.30 a.m.
(9)NC Ambroise raconte
3.30 a.m.
(9)NC C'est quoi ça?

On the airwaves

8:03 p.m. (CBC-FM) **Quebec Now.** A visit to Le Patricte, where French artists perform.

8:03 p.m. (CBC-AM) **The Magic Flute, Mozart.** Cast: Patricia Wells, Louise Lebrun, John Breknock, David Hollaway, Joseph Rouleau and Donald Bell. Produced by the National Arts Center.

10:03 p.m. (CBC-FM) **Ideas.** The 1974 Massey Lectures — Nostalgia for the Absolute. (2) Voyages into the Interior.

10:30 p.m. (CBC-AM) **Touch the Earth.** Parts 1 and 2 of the Winnipeg Folk Festival, 1974. A repeat of last year's festival featuring some of North America's leading folk artists.

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Ottawa, July 11, 1975
Further to the Public Hearing of March 11, 1975 concerning the proposed amendments to the AM and FM Broadcasting Regulations and the FM Application Form, the Commission, on July 4, 1975 issued the following:
1. Amendments to the Radio (F.M.) Broadcasting Regulations.
2. Amendments to the Radio (A.M.) Broadcasting Regulations:
3. FM Application Form, Part I — General and Part II — Promise of Performance;
4. Public Announcement — This announcement is intended to supplement the Commission's policy document, FM Radio in Canada;
5. Decision 75-250 — Renewal of AM and FM broadcasting licences expiring in the early part of 1976.
All interested parties may obtain copies of the foregoing documents by writing to the CRTC, 100 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ont. or by calling 613-996-5312.
Guy Lefebvre
Director-General of Licensing
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